

INDIANOLA POLICE DEPARTMENT

2022



ANNUAL REPORT



Indianola Police Dept. | [Tel:515.961.9400.](tel:515.961.9400)

110 N. First St., Indianola, IA 50125

<https://ia-indianola.civicplus.com/149/Police-Department>

A photograph of an Indiana Police car at night, with its emergency lights flashing. The car is white with "INDIANA POLICE" written on the side. The background shows a dark sky with clouds and some trees.

INDEX

Message from the Chief	3
Divisions	6
Training	11
Body Cameras	13
Statistics	15
Internal Recognition	16
Community	17
Employment Highlights	29

Message from the Chief

During 2022, the Indianola Police Department went through numerous changes. We had one officer resign, which left us with 22 officers, out of our authorized strength of 24, at the end of 2022. We conducted a hiring process to fill those two open positions and are on course to get the two officers hired in early 2023.

In October, I was honored to be hired as the permanent Chief. At the end of December, Rob Hawkins was promoted to Captain. Captain Hawkins brings 24 years of police experience to this position. As 2023 arrived, we are now working on promoting 2 Lieutenants and 2 Sergeants.

I am beyond excited to announce that the Indianola City Council has agreed to fund the purchase and training of a K-9 unit. As a team, the Indianola Police Department has raised over \$30,000 in private donations and grants. A K-9 handler has not been chosen at the time of this report. The K-9 will be utilized for narcotics detection, tracking and handler protection.

In last year's report, it was noted that the Indianola City Council approved the purchase of body cameras/cell phones. I am happy to tell you that as of June 2022 all our officers are equipped with this technology. Transparency in what we do is very important to me, and the body cameras help to build trust within our community.

We know that the motto states "To **Protect** and **Serve**." Part of the way we serve is through our non-profit, Indianola Police Department Community Outreach Program. (IPD COP). Some of the IPD COP events you will read about in this report include Elves in Blue, Thanksgiving meals, Christmas meals, and our partnership with local veterans. I once again want to thank all the individuals and organizations that donate to IPD COP.

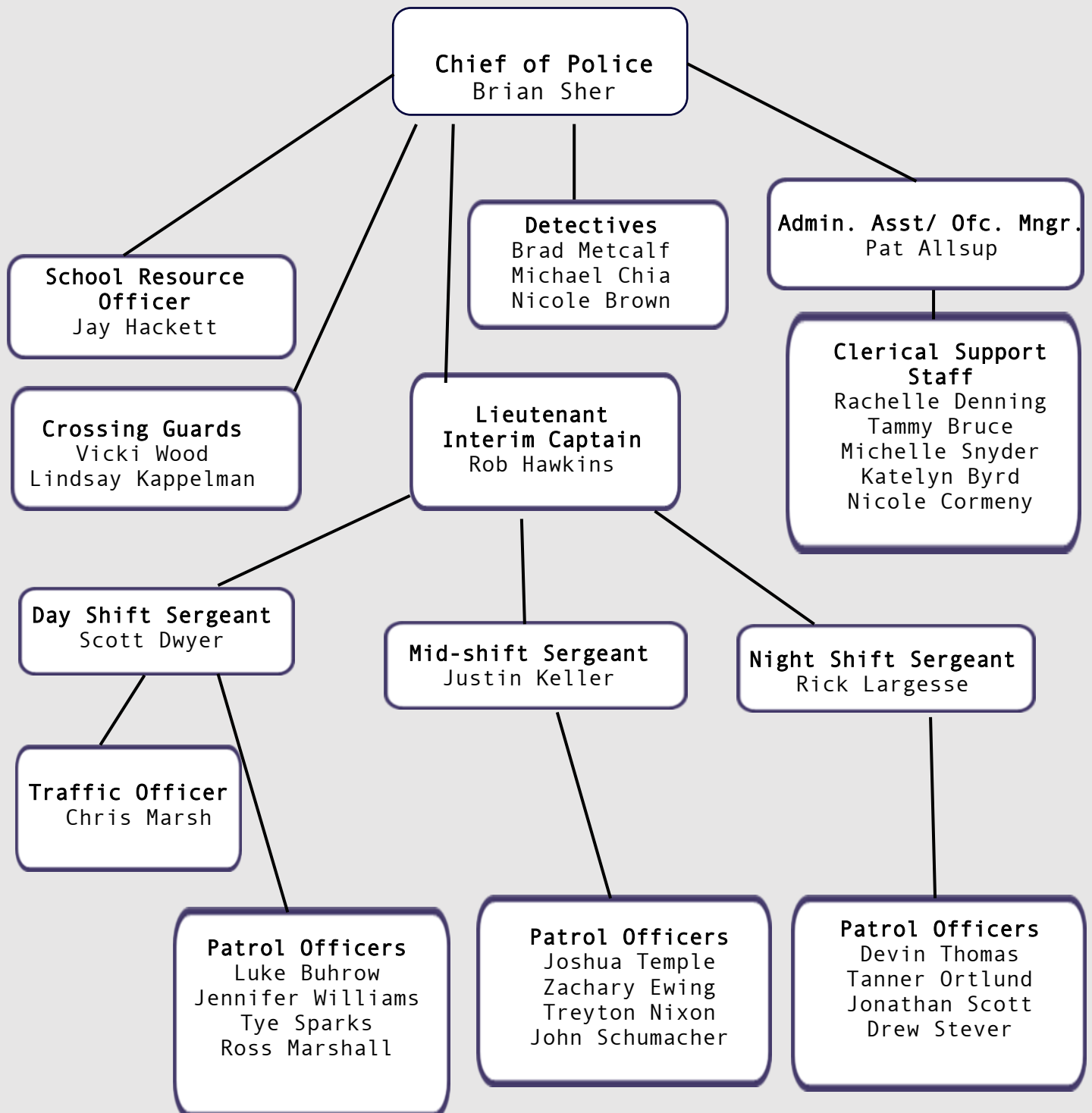
I also want to highlight our new drone program. We partnered with the Indianola Fire Department to purchase a drone and we currently have 6 certified drone pilots. The drone program was started on June 3rd. In the last half of 2022, we utilized the drone in 16 missions.

I look forward to the exciting changes that are ahead of us in 2023, and as always, it is an honor to serve the City of Indianola.

Chief of Police Brian Sher

*"There is no limit to the amount of good you can.
do if you do not care who gets the credit."
-Ronald Reagan*

Organizational Chart 2022



2022 Department Personnel



Chief Brian Sher

Capt. Rob Hawkins

Admin/Ofc. Mngr Pat Allsup

Sgt. Scott Dwyer

Sgt. Justin Keller

Sgt. Rick Largesse



Ofc. Chris Marsh

Det. Brad Metcalf

Ofc. Luke Buhrow

SRO Jay Hackett

Ofc. Jennifer Williams

Ofc. Joshua Temple



Ofc. Zach Ewing

Det. Michael Chia

Ofc. Devin Thomas

Ofc. Tye Sparks

Ofc. Ross Marshall

Det. Nicole Brown



Ofc. Tanner Ortland

Ofc. Treyton Nixon

Ofc. Jon Scott

Ofc. Drew Stevers

Ofc. John Schumacher



Clerical Rachelle Denning

Clerical Tammy Bruce

Clerical Michelle Snyder

Clerical Katelyn Byrd

Clerical Nicole Cormeny

DIVISIONS

Patrol Division

The mainstay and most visible part of the Indianola Police Department is the Patrol Division. There are three patrol sergeants that supervise our three shifts with 4 officers assigned to each by bid. Dayshift runs from 6:00 AM until 4:00 PM, Mid-shift is from 3:00 PM until 1:00 AM and Nightshift is from 9:00 PM until 7:00 AM. Each shift intentionally overlaps to give officers time to exchange information at roll call and finish the day's paperwork.

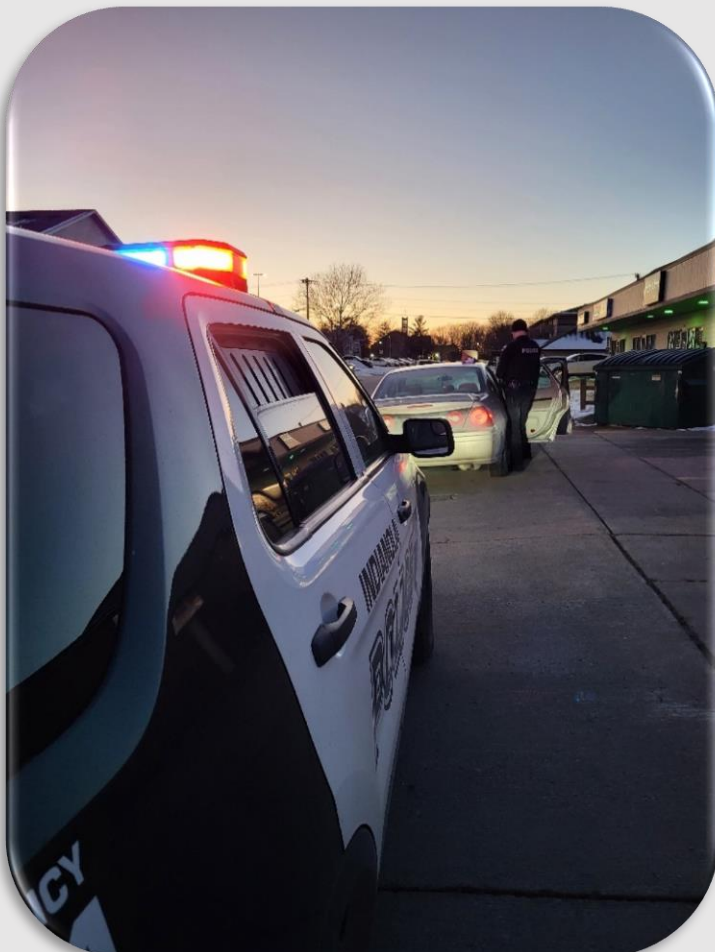
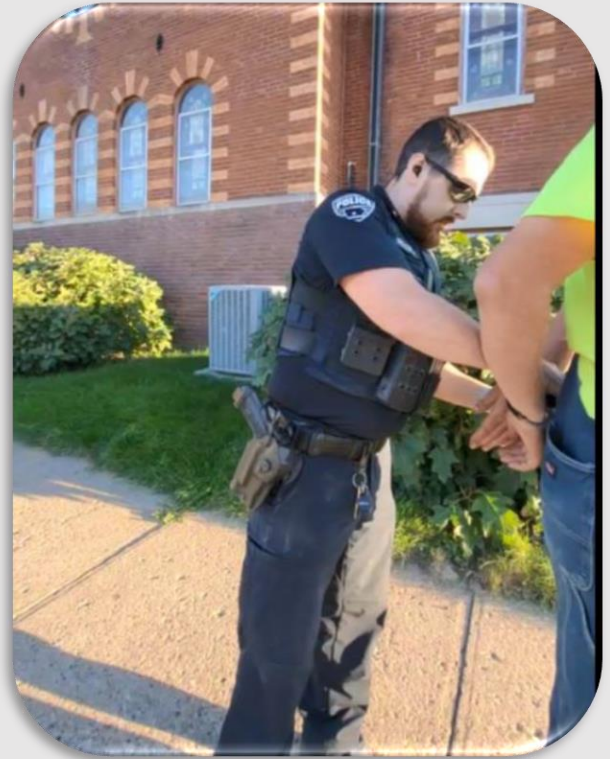
The patrol lieutenant works Monday through Friday and supervises the activity of the Patrol Division. The three shifts have slightly different responsibilities and call loads. Dayshift has more traffic stops, accidents, and financial crimes reports whereas mid-shift and nightshift handle more alcohol-related incidents.



All three shifts respond to many different calls for service including: traffic accidents, domestic disturbances, assaults, mental health issues, burglaries / burglar alarms, thefts, narcotic violations, criminal mischief etc.

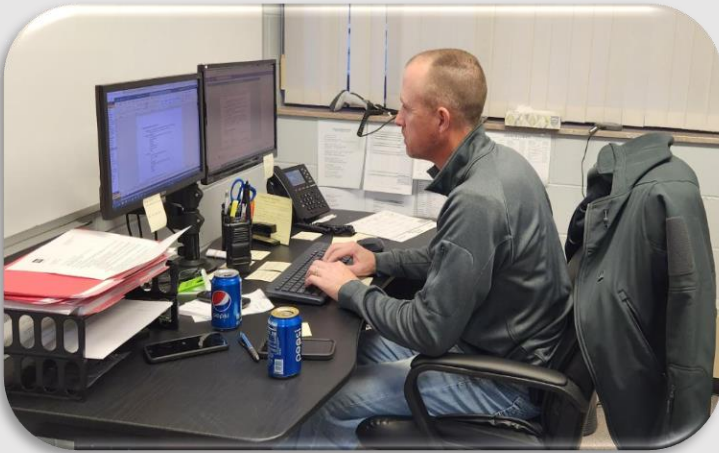
Each officer's activity, either self-initiated or through being dispatched to a call, is a call for service. In 2022, the patrol division handled 13,041 calls for service. This number was up 3.2% from 2021. Some other statistics of interest: traffic enforcement was up 8.6% and Vehicle accident responses were down 9.2%.

Patrol officers are the first to arrive at the scene of a reported crime, accident, or medical emergency. Patrol officers quickly assess each situation, identify involved parties, secure evidence, gather information, assess patients, render first aid, and make arrests as each situation dictates. Many situations necessitate a written report that officers can complete either in their patrol vehicle or in the office. As of June 2022, every officer is equipped with a department issued cell phone that also serves as a Body Worn Camera (BWC). The BWC is activated during public encounters and calls for service or at any other time that its use would be beneficial to the department.



The police department utilizes Ford Explorer Utilities as our primary patrol vehicles. In 2022, we purchased a Chevrolet Tahoe to serve as our K9 patrol vehicle. Currently the department has 14 vehicles, 12 marked units and 2 unmarked units for our Investigations Division staff.

Detective Division

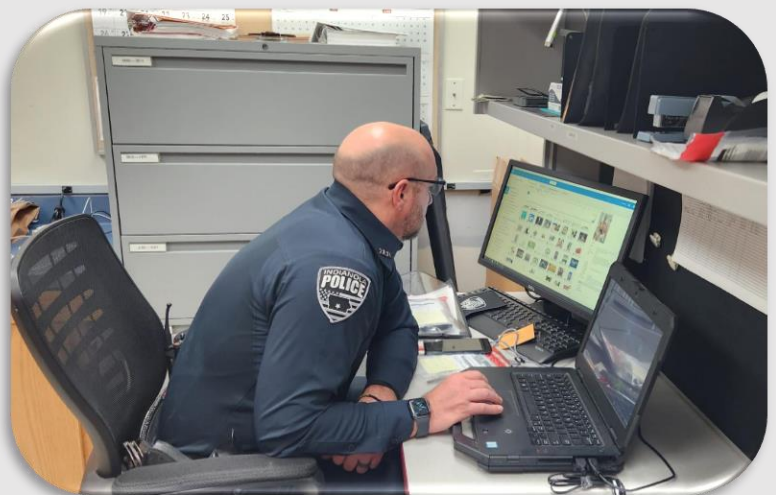


There are three officers currently assigned to the detective division, who are supervised by the captain. In January 2023, Sgt. Largeesse was promoted to Detective Lieutenant, and will oversee the Detective division of the police department. In 2022, cases detectives investigated were up 3.9% from 2021.

The detectives are responsible for all the evidence under the control of the police department and the evidence room. Currently, the detectives are responsible for over 2,000 items in the evidence room.

Another major responsibility of the detective division is the forensic examinations of cell phones. In 2021 we had one detective certified to examine cell phones. We use a system called Cellebrite to conduct these examinations. In 2021 we investigated numerous cell phones for various crimes from harassment to child pornography.

The main responsibility of the detective division is to follow up on cases generated by the patrol division. The workflow of cases generally start at the patrol division then gets forwarded to the Lieutenant. Once approved by the Lieutenant, the case moves on to the detectives for investigation. The detectives investigate, minor crimes such as thefts, criminal mischief, harassments as well as major crimes including, robberies, burglaries, sexual assaults, and death investigations.



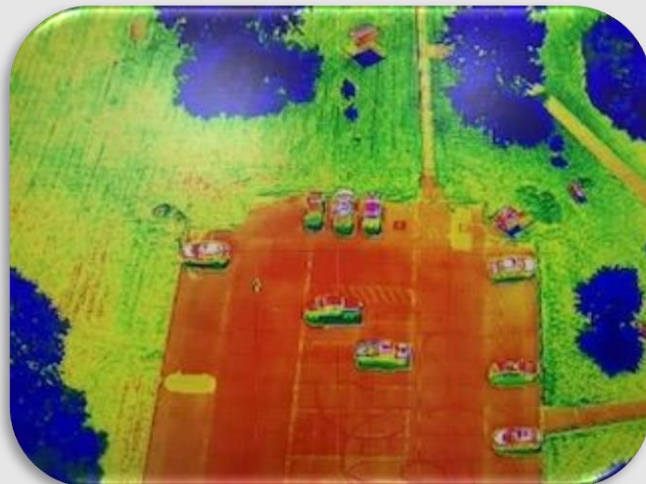
Unmanned Aircraft System (Drone) Program



After nearly a year of research, in June 2022, IPD officially launched its Unmanned Aircraft System (Drone) Program. The department offered an opportunity for officers to become certified as Federal Aviation Administration Part 107 UAS pilots. As part of the certification process, officers completed a 15-hour online study program that covered all aspects of aviation including airport operations, sectional maps, weather, aircraft performance, airspace classification and restricted areas, and maintenance. After completing the online program, officers scheduled and took the Part 107 certification exam through the FAA. To date, six officers have become certified pilots.

The department, with help from Indianola Fire, purchased a DJI Matrice 30T drone, complete with thermal imaging capabilities, active tracking, laser range finder, 200x digital zoom, and other features. The drone operates on rechargeable batteries and has a max flight time of 46 minutes per set of batteries.

In 2022, officers flew 16 real-world air missions including attempts to locate missing subjects, wanted subjects, mental health subjects and trespassers. We also located illegal campsites, helped with city park mapping, and aided IFD with structure fire assessments. The UAS was requested by outside agencies 4 times to assist with local, state, and federal investigations. In total, officers logged 1,199 minutes of flight time between training and real-world air missions. The UAS149 Drone has traveled a total of 53.35 miles (281696 feet) and has reached a top speed of 51.4 mph during a training session.



School Resource Officer

Officer Jay Hackett is in his fourth year as Indianola's School Resource Officer. We like to say this is his senior year!! SRO Hackett has been trained as an SRO and has attended advanced SRO training. He is also an ALICE instructor. (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) SRO Hackett is in-charge, plans and organizes most of our IPD COP events throughout the year. The Indianola Police Department's partnership with the Indianola Schools is unwavering. The goal is to have the safest learning environment possible.

SRO Hackett spends the majority of his time at the High School and Middle School, but he also spends time in all of the elementary schools. His presence in the schools builds trust and relationships between the police department and both the staff and students.

SRO Hackett responded to 360 incidents in 2022, which is down from 392 incidents in 2021. Of the 360 incidents he responded to, there were only 27 criminal charges filed. Most incidents are handled informally with students, parents, and school staff.



TRAINING

During 2022, Indianola Police Officers and clerical staff received over 1,581 hours of training. This number of training hours is 309 hours higher than completed in 2021. All officers exceeded the 12-hour minimum annual requirement for training hours. Part of the training included both a spring and fall in-service training event. Most of the training for our in-service sessions is provided in-house by our state certified instructors including implicit bias, baton, OC, taser, defensive tactics, and firearms (including patrol rifle qualification).

Some of the training topics Police Department employees completed include:

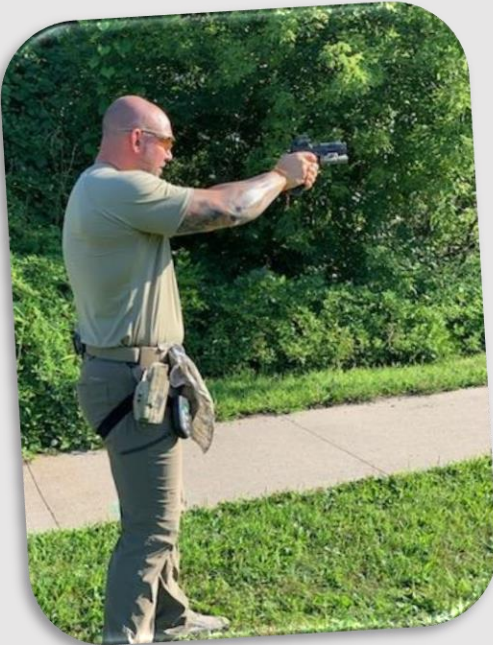
Internal training included:

Active threat/shooter scenario training (At Indianola Middle School and Simpson)
Taser 7 orientation training (Classroom and hands on)
Ballistic Shield training
Vehicle extraction training
Defensive tactics/ASP/OC training (Use of department certified instructors)
Patrol Rifle training
Practical DT days
Practical firearms range days
IPD Policy Review (Over 12 months covered entire IPD Policy Manual)

External training included:

Leading without rank
ICAP Search and Seizure
Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement ARIDE
Body Worn Camera Visual Labs training
Peer Support training Level I and II
Warren County Attorney update
UAS FAA Part 107 Pilot Course
Tactical Medicine for Patrol
Gracie Survival Tactics Level I
IASRO Conference
Mandatory Reporter recertification DHS
Human Trafficking
AR-15 Armorer Course
Axon Taser Instructor Course
Adolescent Mental Health training SRO
Interview and Interrogation
Iowa Sex Crimes Investigators Conference
TAC 10- Global Training
National Incident based reporting - FBI
LASO training -
NCIC
2022 Law Enforcement Admin Professional Training

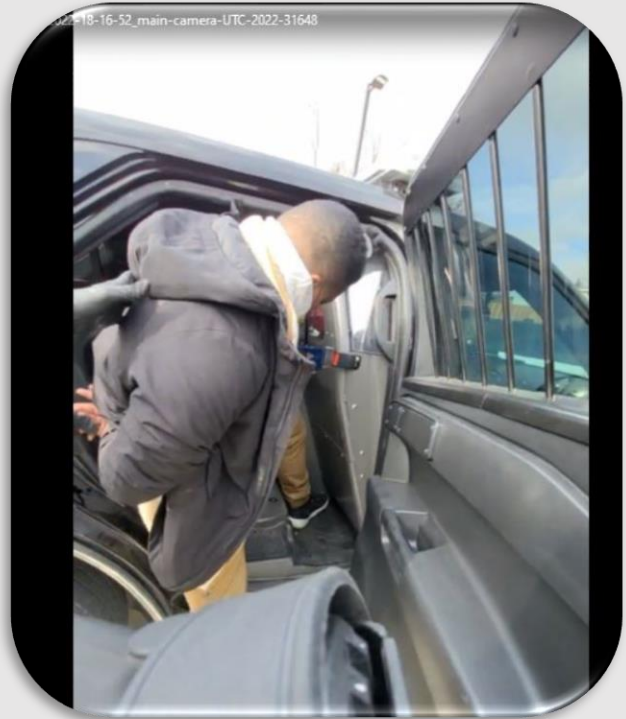
TRAINING

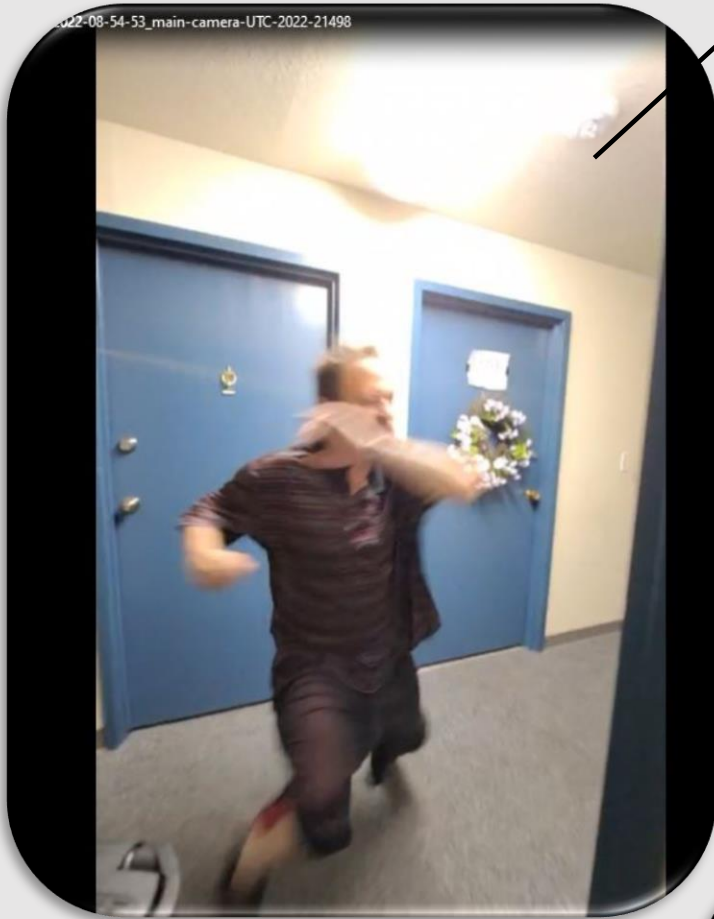


BODY CAMERAS

As part of the review of existing best practices for law enforcement, the Indianola Police Department determined that the acquisition and use of body-worn cameras would be of substantial value to the City of Indianola, the citizens of Indianola, and the Police Officers that serve Indianola. Body-worn camera use would improve transparency, further citizen confidence in the police department, accountability, as well as improve and document officer performance by meeting the following objectives:

- Allow officers to document officer-public contacts, arrests, and critical incidents
- Provide evidence for investigative and prosecutorial purposes
- Enhance the accuracy of officer reports and testimony in court
- Promote and provide vital officer safety support
- Document and verify seizures and evidence collection
- Provide transparent accountability of all police contacts
- Aid in de-escalating some citizen interactions





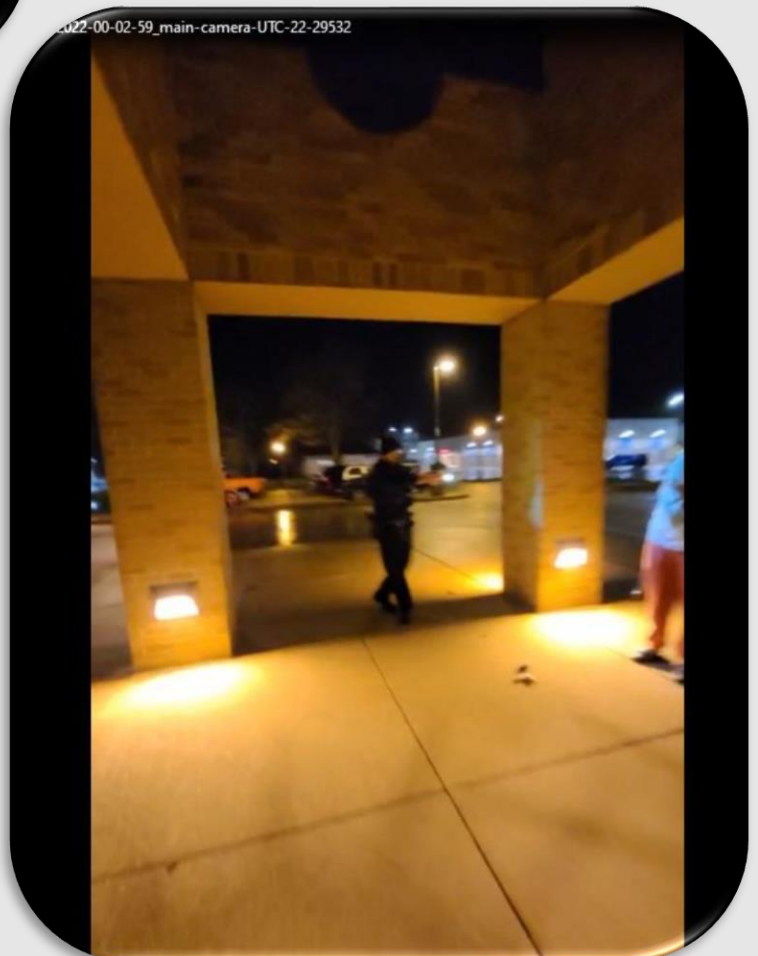
Still photo taken from an actual incident when an IPD Officer gets attacked and punched while investigating a domestic abuse call.

This information along with costs and the scope of the project was presented to the Indianola City Council. It was met with overwhelming approval, and Body Worn Cameras were in place June 1st, 2022.

After 7 months of the body worn cameras in use, we are very pleased with this program and the accountability and documentation the body worn cameras provide.

Fun Fact: June 1st
- Dec. 31st, 2022

IPD Officers drove 92,888 miles on patrol. Body Worn Cameras capture miles driven!!



STATISTICS

Type of Call	2020	2021	2022	% Diff
Calls for Service	11937	12628	13041	3.2%
Incident Reports	1676	1806	1677	-7.4%
Traffic Enforcements	4460	5094	5552	8.6%
Controlled Substance Cases	169	154	158	2.6%
Vehicle Accident Responses	328	397	362	-9.2%
Arrests	584	565	608	7.3%
Assault	69	57	90	44.9%
Burglary	81	94	46	-68.6%
Burglary- Alarms	175	109	124	12.9%
Sex Abuse	24	35	38	8.2%
Theft	298	300	341	12.8%
Domestic Disturbance	192	169	185	9%
Criminal Mischief	109	133	102	-26.3%
Arson/Fire	2	5	3	-50%
Robbery	0	0	0	0%
Fraud/Forgery	104	101	113	11.2%
Trespass	147	150	154	2.6%
Drone			16	0%

Traffic Enforcement

Citations/Warnings	2816	3411	4602	29.7%
OWI	57	56	54	-3.6%
Parking Tickets	852	736	636	-14.6%

Motor Vehicle Accidents

Property Damage	251	298	160	-60.2%
Personal Injury	21	27	18	-40%
Hit and Run	44	62	51	-19.5%
Unknown Injury	2	1	0	-200%
Car vs. Deer	9	9	10	10.5%
Fatality	1	0	0	0%

Detective Cases

Detective Investigated	128	101	105	3.9%
ICAC	24	15	17	12.5%

SRO

Calls for Service	378	392	360	-8.5%
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	-------

Internal Recognition

Letters of Commendation

At our first supervisor's meeting in July of 2021, one of the topics discussed was the department's lack of internal recognition for employees that go above and beyond. A program was implemented to recognize these achievements where employees nominate other employees for this recognition. Employees are recognized at our mandatory Spring and Fall in-service training.



COMMUNITY

Community / Events:

The Indianola Police Department believes strongly in attending as many community events as possible. In 2022 community policing was a major priority of this department. Not only did we host or attend many events, we added other ideas to continue the conversation with the community. One of these ideas was born out of a community event called RVTV.

Indianola hosted RVTV the Friday night before the Iowa vs. Iowa State football game. We decided to design Indianola Police patches with both teams, and we proudly wore our team's patch the week of RVTV. Even though the football game did not go as planned, (GO HAWKS!) The community gave great feedback on our patches. Because of this feedback, and connecting with the community, many other patches have been designed and will be proudly worn in 2023. Some of these patches include, 4th of July, Autism Awareness, Halloween, and a Holiday Patch. We are also working on a throwback patch to honor the officers that served the community before us. We look forward to wearing these patches in 2023!



February 19, 2022

American Legion Breakfast

Every year we partner with the American Legion and serve with our Veterans breakfast. This year was no exception as we helped raise hundreds of dollars for their organization.





March 3, 2022

International Women's Day

The police department has two sworn female officers, six civilian female clerical employees and two female crossing guards.



March 16, 2022
Little Miracles – Role of
Law Enforcement



April 1, 2022
In partnership with Indianola
Parks and Recreation
Babysitting Clinic

April 13, 2022

Easter in the Schools

The night shift donned the bunny ears and went to each elementary school and handed out Easter treats to the kids.



April 14, 2022

Victory Christian Academy

Emergency Response Education



April 28, 2022
Community Helpers Week
Victory Christian Academy



June 6, 2022
Pink Tractor Foundation Auction



The police department donated two pink shields from our patrol vehicles to be auctioned off to raise money for the Pink Tractor Foundation. We helped raise over \$500 dollars to help Warren County families who are fighting cancer!





June 12, 2022
Mayors Youth Council Bike Festival





June 23, 2022
 Community Engagement Night
 Simpson College, Kent Center
 Active shooter and threat response

In 2022 Active shootings/school shootings were forefront on the mind of many around the nation. The Indianola Police Department partnered with Simpson College to help train the public on how to be safe in these situations, and the police department's response to active shootings.





This Is Our House

RVTv Tailgate Party - 9.9.22 @ 3pm On The Indianola Square
Presented by the Indianola Downtown Merchants & City of Indianola



Platinum Sponsors:



Gold Sponsors:



Supporting Sponsors:

Affinity Bridals, Bob's Custom Trophies, DDVI, Ellis Law Offices, Indianola Advocate/Record Herald and Indianola Tribune, Indianola Chamber of Commerce, Lula Belle Designs, Misty Soldwisch Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate, National Balloon Classic, Pageturners Bookstore, Pamela's Place, Parker Signs, Roots & Roots Reclaimed, Soul Full, Studio Fusco, Tiny Tots to Teens, Warren County Economic Development, Webster Creative, Willow Moon Apothecary

October 13, 2022
Public Safety Night
K9 fundraiser



Every year we partner with the Indianola Fire Department and celebrate public safety with Public Safety Night. This year, Chief Chia was gracious enough to donate all funds raised to the start-up of our new K9 program. Thank you, Chief Chia and the Indianola Fire Department!!!



October 31, 2022
Trunk or Treat

The Indianola Public Library hosts this event each year. City departments decorate a vehicle, and the public decides which department has the best decorated vehicle. I am proud to say the 2022 winner of the "Silver Pumpkin" award for best decorated vehicle went to the Indianola Police Department.



November 22, 2022
Thanksgiving Meals



December 8, 2022

Elves in Blue

This year we were fortunate to help 15 Indianola families celebrate Christmas. Each Indianola child was given money to shop with an officer at Wal Mart, to purchase their family members a gift, and to get a Christmas gift for themselves.



December 23, 2022
Christmas Meals



EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Captain Brian Sher promoted to Chief.

Lieutenant Rob Hawkins promoted to Captain.

Officer Jon Schumacher sworn in after graduating from ILEA.

Officer Isiah Strong resigned.

Clerical Michelle Snyder went from part time to full time.

Clerical Nicole Cormeny hired.

The following officers are all part 107 drone pilot certified:

Capt. Rob Hawkins
Sgt. Justin Keller
Ofc. Tye Sparks
Ofc. Zac Ewing
Ofc. Tanner Ortlund
Ofc. Trey Nixon

